

**Department of Homeland Security  
Information Analysis and Infrastructure  
Protection  
Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report  
for 25 April 2003**

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)  
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**Daily Overview**

- The Times–Picayune reports containerized cargo movement through the Port of New Orleans further slowed this week because of a week–and–a–half–old work stoppage by local independent truck drivers who want higher pay and better working conditions. (See item [7](#))
- CNN reports FBI agents have questioned each passenger on the Legend of the Seas cruise ship about two handwritten notes threatening "acts of terrorism" found early Wednesday; this has forced the ship's diversion from a port–of–call in Hilo, Hawaii, to an anchoring a mile off the coast of Oahu. (See item [8](#))
- Microsoft has posted a patch to remedy the registration bug, invoking Office's Registration Wizard even if the user has already registered the product, that has plagued Office 2000 users since April 15, (See item [22](#))

**DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump***

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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**Energy Sector**

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES–ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *April 24, Platts Global Energy News* — OPEC will defend \$25/bbl target at any cost: Naimi. Saudi Arabian oil minister Ali Naimi Thursday reiterated OPEC's determination to defend its oil price target of \$25/bbl. "We will do whatever it takes to defend \$25/bbl," Naimi told reporters in Vienna a few hours ahead of an emergency OPEC meeting. "\$25/bbl is the price in our mind, we will defend it at any cost." he said. \$25/bbl is also the midpoint of OPEC's stated target range of \$22–28/bbl for its basket of seven crudes. **Several other ministers arriving in Vienna for the talks have said OPEC's crude production needs to be**

**cut back to reduce current over-supply in the market.** In March, a Platts survey estimated that the ten OPEC members with quotas pumped 26.34–mil b/d, more than 1.8–mil b/d in excess of their 24.5–mil b/d ceiling. The Saudi Arabian oil minister said there were currently several factors influencing market prices, including the outbreak of the SARS virus. **This outbreak has been worst in Asia, "which is the most important market for us," Naimi said, estimating that the virus had led to a fall in demand for jet fuel of around 200,000–300,000 b/d.** Furthermore, high demand for jet fuel from the U.S. military in March and April had tailed off, he said.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/stories/oil2.html>

2. *April 23, Platts Global Energy News* — **Four-month outage expected at South Texas-1. To ensure the source of vessel bottom deposits is located, South Texas-1 may be off-line four months,** a joint meeting of two Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards subcommittees was told April 23. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staffers said operator South Texas Project (STP) Nuclear Operating Co. **had assured NRC it would not try to rush its 1,250-MW (net) PWR back to service until the cause of the first-of-a-kind deposits is understood.** Lining up the specialized inspection equipment and conducting diagnostic testing will keep the unit sidelined an estimated four months. The reactor went off-line for refueling March 25 and was winding up routine maintenance and inspections April 12 when the minute deposits were found around instrument-line penetrations on the vessel bottom. **The deposits indicated there had been leakage from the reactor vessel, but the source of the leakage is still under investigation.**

Source: <http://www.platts.com/stories/nuclear1.html>

3. *April 23, New York Times* — **County ponders the feasibility of shutting down Indian Point.** Westchester County plans to hire a consultant to study the feasibility and impact of shutting down the Indian Point nuclear power plant and replacing it with an alternative energy source. In a public forum at Manhattanville College in Purchase on Tuesday night, the county executive, Andrew J. Spano, said that he planned to ask for proposals from experts who he hoped would answer questions about the possible closing of the nuclear plant. **Spano said the study would examine the feasibility of the county's buying the nuclear plant from its owner, Entergy, and the possibility of replacing it with a gas-fired plant. It would also seek to determine the economic implications of closing the plant, which employs 1,500 people and pays school and local taxes.** "These are complex questions that need expert answers," Spano said today. He said he hoped to receive the proposals on May 30 and to have the study completed within six months. The study will seek to determine whether it would be practical for the county to acquire Indian Point, either through condemnation or by negotiating with its owner and whether replacement energy would be needed and, if so, where it would come from. **Jim Steets, an Entergy spokesman, said buying the plant, which would likely cost billions of dollars, is probably out of reach of a county struggling to close a budget gap.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/24/nyregion/24NUKE.html>

4. *April 23, Associated Press* — **TVA to link with other electric systems. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has signed agreements with three other major power transmission services to link systems and improve the flow of wholesale electricity over a large portion of the eastern United States.** The pact is between TVA, the nation's largest public utility, and Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator Inc., Southern

Company and Entergy. Together, the four own or operate about 150,000 miles of transmission lines serving an area of more than 1 million square miles. Their effort to develop a seamless connection between their still-independent systems is part of a national strategy to make it easier to move wholesale electricity from one region of the country to another. **TVA already "wheels" electricity produced by others across its 17,000-mile transmission system. However, TVA is prevented by a 1957 law that gave it independent borrowing authority from selling its own power beyond 13 neighboring utilities.** The proposed transmission links would not change the limits on TVA-generated power sales, but they could expand TVA's choices for purchased power.

Source: [http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma\\_newsarticle1\\_national.htm?SMDOCID=ap\\_2003\\_04\\_23\\_-----\\_6767-3601-Power-Pact.ContentSet=0](http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_national.htm?SMDOCID=ap_2003_04_23_-----_6767-3601-Power-Pact.ContentSet=0)

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## **Chemical Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

5. *April 24, Associated Press* — **U.S.: National Guard numbers to decline.** The number of National Guard and Reserve troops called to active duty for the war in Iraq will begin to decline soon, the Pentagon official in charge of reserve policy said Thursday. The Pentagon has not said how many of the approximately 223,000 backup troops on active duty were called up specifically for the Iraq war, but it likely is in the range of 90,000 to 120,00. The rest are performing other missions, such as security at U.S. military bases at home and abroad. As of Wednesday, the Pentagon said there were 223,790 reserve members on active duty, an increase of 587 from a week earlier. The number has been growing since war mobilizations began last fall. **"I think we'll see those numbers start to come down now," Thomas Hall, the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, said in an interview with a group of reporters. "It has to. We don't need all of those people now." Hall did not say how soon those Guard and Reserve troops would be demobilized or in what numbers.**

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A32095-2003Apr\\_24.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A32095-2003Apr_24.html)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Transportation Sector**

6. *April 24, The Baytown Sun (Texas)* — **More funding sought for Houston harbor security.**

**Several Houston–area representatives were on hand at the Port of Houston Wednesday to announce the creation of the port security legislative caucus.** Congressman Chris Bell, whose 25th district includes most of Baytown, is the founder of the group. With cargo ships as a backdrop, Congressman Jim Turner, D–TX, ranking member of the House Homeland Security Committee; Jim Edmonds, chairman of the Port of Houston Authority; District 29 Representative Gene Green; District 18 Representative Sheila Jackson–Lee; and District 9 Congressman Nick Lampson, also a Baytown representative, joined Bell in proclaiming the new group. **The new caucus has 93 members from both parties. Wednesday, s delegation, all Democrats, highlighted the vulnerability of American ports to terrorist attack as well as the need for additional funding to protect them. To that end, the caucus will push for \$700 million in funds. Of that, \$13 million would be earmarked for the harbors along the Houston Ship Channel. Last year, the Congress appropriated \$93 million for additional port security, of which Houston received \$1.8 million.** “The security gaps that exist today at America’s ports,” Bell said, “give rouge states and terrorist groups like al Qaeda millions of opportunities every year to smuggle a nuclear device or weapon of mass destruction into the United States.” **Bell went on to point out that only three percent of the nearly six million seaborne cargo containers entering U.S. harbors are ever physically inspected.**

Source: <http://web.baytownsun.com/story.lasso?WCD=11326>

7. *April 24, The Times–Picayune* — **Truck drivers' strike cuts port's cargo traffic in half.** Containerized cargo movement through the Port of New Orleans further slowed this week because of a week–and–a–half–old work stoppage by local independent truck drivers who want higher pay and better working conditions. **Container traffic through the port, which normally runs at about 1,000 boxes per week, was off by 50 percent Wednesday, port Executive Director Gary LaGrange said. A week ago, he said traffic had fallen between 25 percent and 40 percent because of the strike.** The slowdown means port customers must wait longer to ship and receive cargo through the port. Those delays often result in higher storage and dockage fees for the shippers. Meanwhile, truckers staffing picket lines around the port appeared to be settling into a stalemate that has no signs of ending soon. **Kansas City Southern, one of six major railroads serving the city, has rerouted several hundred containers that normally pass through New Orleans each week because the company can't find truckers to move the cargo through the city,** KCS Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Gerald Davies said. Although striking truckers said nearly all of the region's drivers were taking part, many trucking firms have told their customers that most of their drivers remain on the job but aren't working because they fear retaliation from pickets.

Source: [http://www.nola.com/business/t-p/index.ssf?/base/money-0/105\\_116521313530.xml](http://www.nola.com/business/t-p/index.ssf?/base/money-0/105_116521313530.xml)

8. *April 24, CNN* — **Threatening notes prompt cruise ship diversion.** FBI agents questioned each person on board individually about two handwritten notes threatening "acts of terrorism" found in a ladies rest room early Wednesday. The discovery forced the ship's diversion from a port–of–call in Hilo, Hawaii, to an anchoring a mile off the coast of Oahu, according to Dan Dzwilewski, special–agent–in–charge for the FBI in Honolulu. **The Royal Caribbean's Legend of the Sea, with 2,400 people on board, was sailing from Ensenada, Mexico, to Hilo when the decision was made to divert the ship so the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force could board, Dzwilewski said. The notes "threatened acts of terrorism" against the ship, passengers and crew, Dzwilewski said. The threats were "very anonymous" and "non–specific," he said. The FBI does not know if the threats involved a bomb or an armed**

person on board, he said. **Agents with bomb-sniffing canines boarded the ship Wednesday afternoon while investigators questioned those on board about the notes, he said.**

Passengers were abruptly ordered out of their state rooms late Wednesday afternoon, many of them wearing pajamas, and gathered in the ship's dining rooms. Passengers could only leave the dining rooms if accompanied by an escort. The Legend of the Seas set sail from Ensenada on April 18 for what is supposed to be an 11-day tour with Hawaiian ports-of-call, including Hilo, Kailua Kona, Nawiliwili, Lahaina and Honolulu. It is unclear how the diversion will affect the ship's scheduled voyage.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/West/04/24/cruise.ship.threat/index.html>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

### **9. *April 24, New York Times* — Connecticut postal employees claim deception on anthrax.**

When the United States Postal Service and state and federal health officials found evidence of anthrax spores on a machine in a postal distribution center in Wallingford, CT in 2001, they shut the machine down and decontaminated it. **What they did not do was announce that the concentration of spores was the highest in the nation.** That failure upset workers at the center. A federal report requested by Senator Joseph I. Lieberman released on Monday chronicled the discovery of the spores that led to the death of a 94-year-old woman from Oxford, CT, in November 2001. The report criticized the Postal Service and urged that steps be taken to prevent the withholding of such information, even though it acknowledged the challenges faced by the Postal Service in the days after September 11. **The Postal Service responded today that it was not the agency's job to disseminate the information.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/24/nyregion/24ANTH.html>

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## **Agriculture Sector**

### **10. *April 24, Reuters* — Dutch to cull 6 million more poultry in bird flu fight. Dutch authorities, worried they are losing the battle against bird flu, said on Thursday they would slaughter six million more birds and set up a new buffer zone in the southern heartland of the poultry sector. The highly infectious avian influenza broke out of a quarantine zone in the centre of the country a couple of weeks ago and is now spreading through an area with the most poultry farms.** Authorities in the Netherlands, the European Union's biggest poultry exporter, have already culled over 18 million birds since the end of February and carved out buffer zones near the Belgian and German borders. They will now remove poultry from around 200 farms in Limburg and Brabant provinces to protect a neighbouring area slightly to the north, Agriculture Ministry spokesman Gerard Westerhof said.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L24280129.htm>

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## **Food Sector**

11. *April 24, Associated Press* — **Report: lawsuits restrict food regulation.** Lawsuits against the U.S. government are casting doubt on its authority to enforce food safety laws, a scientific panel says. **The Institute of Medicine said in a report Thursday that Congress should help federal regulators, the U.S. Agriculture Department and the Food and Drug Administration, by strengthening their authority over food processors. "Congress should give regulatory agencies the clear authority to establish, and enforce compliance with, science-based food safety criteria, including performance standards," the panel said.** Some meatpackers have challenged the Agriculture Department for closing plants when inspectors find harmful bacteria or repeated sanitation violations. **In other recommendations, the institute said Congress should: give regulators more flexibility to come up with requirements that would allow food plants to use new technologies for preventing bacteria from poisoning food, and require a national plan for coordinating how the government tracks foodborne diseases in food production, processing and distribution.**

Source: [http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/content/news/ap/ap\\_story.html/National/AP.V8205.AP-Food-Safety.html](http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/content/news/ap/ap_story.html/National/AP.V8205.AP-Food-Safety.html)

12. *April 23, New Scientist* — **Virus cleans up food poisoning bug. A virus that kills the food-poisoning bacterium E. coli O157:H7 has been discovered in sheep. The virus could help eliminate the bacterium in farm animals, greatly reducing the chance of human infections.** O157:H7, a toxic strain of the normally harmless gut bug E. coli, is a major cause of food poisoning. Andrew Brabban at Evergreen State College in Washington state and his team wanted to test different antibiotics to find those which would eliminate the bugs from farm animals. First, they had to infect sheep with E. coli. But they hit an unexpected problem: the bacteria just kept disappearing from the animals. The team re-infected the sheep three times, and every time the bacteria mysteriously vanished. **It turned out that the sheep harbour a bacteria-killing virus, or bacteriophage, that infects certain E. coli strains. When the team tested the phage against the food-poisoning bug in the lab, they found it kills 16 out of 18 toxic strains.**

Source: <http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99993652>

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## Water Sector

13. *April 22, Associated Press* — **Los Angeles admits liability in thousands of sewage spills. Los Angeles, CA admitted liability Tuesday for nearly 4,000 sewage spills over the past decade that violated state or federal law, in a bid to settle a case that otherwise could cost it roughly \$100 million in fines.** The admission came in response to a lawsuit filed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and Santa Monica Baykeeper, a pollution watchdog group. The suit sought a commitment from Los Angeles to cut spills and improve its 6,700-mile sewer system, the nation's largest. The city could face fines of either \$25,000 or \$27,500 for each of the 3,670 spills when the case goes to trial in January. Previously, a federal judge ruled that the city is liable for 297 other spills. City Bureau of Sanitation director Judith A. Wilson said she hoped ongoing talks would result in a settlement. **Since the lawsuit was filed in 1998, Los Angeles has spent \$650 million in improvements to its sewage system, she said.**



Source: [http://www.sacbee.com/state\\_wire/story/6498060p-7449138c.html](http://www.sacbee.com/state_wire/story/6498060p-7449138c.html)

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## **Public Health Sector**

14. *April 24, Associated Press* — **Beijing closes major hospital as SARS fears grow. China shut down a major hospital in Beijing and put more than 2,000 employees under observation for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) Thursday, as Hong Kong health experts said the disease may be even deadlier than originally thought.** The People's Hospital of Peking University was being disinfected and its patients and more than 2,000 employees moved to one of six hospitals in Beijing designated to handle SARS, the university said. The hospital's front gate was closed and a sign said patients, employees and all items used in the building were barred from leaving. **In Hong Kong, health officials revised the territory's SARS death rate to 7.2 percent of all reported cases, from about 5 percent earlier. Officials fear it may rise further.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31229-2003Apr 24.html>

15. *April 24, Atlanta Journal Constitution* — **Newly found virus kills West Nile mosquito. By figuring out what caused mosquito larvae living in polluted Florida water to become ill, government scientists have isolated a virus lethal to the insects that spread West Nile fever.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently received a patent on a way to use the virus as a mosquito control pesticide and is looking for a private partner to bring the new technology to market. An official said it likely will be at least two years before any commercial use is possible. **They concluded that larvae collected from a pond polluted with pig farm runoff were infected with a type of virus known as baculovirus.** After months of experiments, they learned that mosquitoes fell ill with the virus only when the water contained magnesium. "Once we found that by simply adding magnesium, we could get 100 percent infection, that was the breakthrough," said James J. Becnel, the insect pathologist who found the virus. "All we do now is buy some Epsom salts (magnesium sulfate), add it to the water along with the virus and we get infection." In two or three days, up to 95 percent of the larvae die. **The baculovirus infects only Culex mosquitoes, not other insects, plants, wildlife or people, he said.**

Source: <http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/0403/24westnile.html>

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## **Government Sector**

16. *April 24, Washington Post* — **Homeland Security seizes Iraqi arms, art.** Homeland Security agents said on Wednesday they had seized 15 paintings, a collection of gold-plated guns and knives and assorted other weapons and artworks looted from Baghdad and brought into the United States. In four out of five cases, the smuggling involved journalists. **On Tuesday, agents charged Fox News Channel technician Benjamin J. Johnson, 27, of Alexandria with one count of smuggling for allegedly bringing 12 paintings and a quantity of Iraqi monetary bonds into Dulles International Airport.** The charge could result in as much as five years in jail and \$250,000 in fines. Fox News Channel issued a statement saying Johnson

had been fired. Calls to Johnson's Alexandria home were unanswered. **Agents from the Homeland Security Department's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement gave no details of the other cases implicating journalists.** The fifth case, a shipment of gold-plated and ornamental weapons seized at Fort Stewart in Georgia, appeared to involve a member of the U.S. armed forces.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A26656-2003Apr 23.html>

17. *April 24, Capital Media Services* — **Arizona Governor acts to sniff out terror.** Gov. Janet Napolitano is creating a round-the-clock operation to collect everything from police intelligence to tips by Arizonans to search for clues about crime and terrorism. **The new "one-stop intelligence information analysis center" is one of the key points in the governor's new homeland security plan unveiled Wednesday.** Napolitano said the plan is the first of its kind in the nation because it does more than spell out how Arizona will react after a natural or human-caused disaster. It also contains provisions to prevent problems, or at least minimize them. **The new intelligence center, another component of her disaster prevention, would be operated by the state Department of Public Safety. The governor said that center, along with its databases, "would better enable law enforcement to detect trends in criminal activity that could point to covert terrorist activity."**

Source: <http://www.azstarnet.com/star/today/30424rHOMELAND2f2frjs.ht ml>

18. *April 23, Government Executive* — **Homeland official foresees security embedded in 'fabric of society'.** The Bush administration plans to provide "embedded economic incentives" to encourage the private sector to do its part in securing the nation's critical infrastructures, a top homeland security official said Wednesday. **"The whole aspect of security will become embedded in our economy," Deputy Homeland Security Secretary Gordon England told industry leaders during a conference at the Chamber of Commerce.** England, who formerly served as secretary of the Navy and was an executive vice president of General Dynamics, predicted that companies eventually will adjust to the "era of terrorism" in much the same way that they have adjusted to "the era of environmentalism." **England said the Homeland Security Department will play a key role in promoting that type of security-conscious society. "Our preferred approach is to use embedded economic incentives as a stimulant to encourage homeland security measures," he said.**

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0403/042303td2.htm>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

19. *April 24, St. Louis Dispatch* — **Illinois will play role of terrorist target in disaster exercise.** Over five days next month, Illinois will be the target of a bio-terror attack, the site of an airplane crash and revealed as the lair of several al Qaeda sleeper cells. **The incidents are part of a massive national disaster exercise designed to test the preparedness of local, state and federal officials to deal with a worst-case scenario involving weapons of mass destruction. The drill also will include the explosion of a radiological dispersion device, or "dirty bomb," in Seattle. The exercise, ordered by Congress, is dubbed TopOff 2 – short for top officials – and will run for five days beginning May 12. "It gives us a chance to stress our systems and see where they fail, and then go back and fix them in a situation where nobody**



dies," said Michael Chamness, who heads Illinois' terrorism task force. "It's really going to be a great chance for us to learn some lessons in Illinois and also for the rest of the country to take advantage of Chicago and Seattle being guinea pigs. I fully expect us to find some weaknesses and gaps in our plan." **TopOff 1 took place in 2000 and involved a radiological attack on Washington, a chemical attack on Portsmouth, NH, and a biological attack in Denver.**

Source: <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/News/FBE42C4B02C11DF086256D12000F96AC?OpenDocuments+will+play+role+of+terrorist+target+in+disaster+exercise++>

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## **Information and Telecommunications Sector**

**20. *April 24, Associated Press* — Could Iraq become the Silicon Crescent? Rebuilding Iraq's telecommunications networks and constructing new facilities from scratch will cost billions.** U.S. officials have not explained how telecom contracts will be awarded, whether deals signed by Saddam Hussein's regime will be honored, or whether U.S. and British companies will be preferred. While Saddam's regime had a now-shuttered Web site, Uruklink, Iraqis had little Internet access other than in government centers, which offered slow connections routed through "proxy servers" that tried to filter out content the regime didn't like. **The country has virtually no cellular phone coverage other than in the Kurdish north. In 1990, Iraq had 5.3 phone lines for every 100 people, but by 1998 there were only 3 per 100, according to the International Telecommunications Union.** Even before the recent war, the cost of rehabilitating Iraq's phone system was estimated at \$1 billion over seven to 10 years. That project will now include repairing bombed Baghdad phone exchanges, although Marines say 95 percent of the networks are intact — they just lack electricity. Some technology aficionados say **whatever communications work is done in Iraq should include wireless technologies and equipment that routes long-distance calls inexpensively over the Internet.**

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/TECH/industry/04/24/sprj.nilaw.telec.om.ap/index.html>

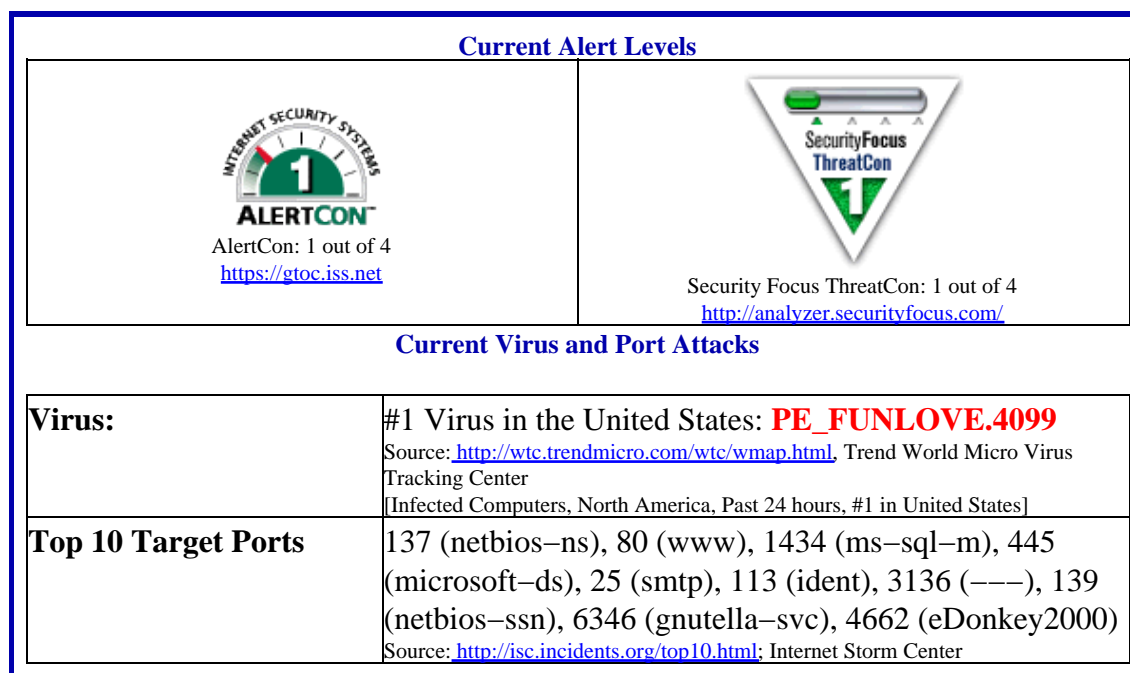
**21. *April 24, New York Times* — Defending the cyber realm.** Security experts have warned that cyberterrorism presents a great potential threat to the U.S., with its increasing dependence on computer networks for everything from weapons systems to hydroelectric dams to commerce. However, security technology developer Symantec says **it has yet to record a single cyberterrorist attack — by its definition, one originating in a country on the State Department's terror watch list.** That could be because those inclined to commit terrorist acts do not yet have the know-how to do significant damage, or perhaps because hackers and adept virus writers are not motivated to disrupt networks for a cause. But should the two groups find common ground, the result could be devastating, said Michael A. Vatis, head of the Institute for Security Technology Studies at Dartmouth College.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/24/technology/circuits/24viru.html>

**22. *April 22, The Register* — Microsoft issues Office 2000 registration bug patch.** Microsoft has posted a patch to remedy the registration bug that has plagued Office 2000 users in some of the world's biggest organizations since April 15. The bug invokes Office's Registration Wizard, even if the user has already registered the product, typically through the purchase of a

Select Customer volume license. **In many cases, the bug is merely annoying, forcing the user to get rid of an unwanted window. In some cases, dismiss the window too often and Office ceases to function, or enters what Microsoft calls "Reduced Functionality Mode".** The only way to get it back is to register the software with Microsoft. **The patch may be found on the Microsoft Website:** <http://support.microsoft.com/?id=818798>  
Source: <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/4/30355.html>

## Internet Alert Dashboard



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## General Sector

23. *April 24, Washington Times* — **Al Qaeda's credibility 'on the line'.** Al Qaeda and its terrorist allies remain a potent threat, but their failure to carry out a successful strike during the U.S.-led military campaign to topple Saddam Hussein has raised questions about their ability to carry out major new attacks. **The concerns of senior Bush administration officials and private terrorism analysts that al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden would attempt to "hijack" Muslim opposition to the Iraq war with a spectacular new attack have proved unfounded, even with American generals now occupying Saddam's Baghdad palaces.** "I think their credibility is increasingly on the line the longer we go without a successful terrorist strike," said Mark Burgess, director of the Terrorism Project at the Center for Defense Information. "We know al Qaeda is a patient lot, but I don't know if they can afford to be too patient," he said. "Bin Laden made a lot of noise before the war about defending the Iraqi people, and so far there's nothing to show for it." **Despite a few suicide bombings that targeted U.S. forces in Iraq, speculation that Saddam's regime would resort to widespread terrorist attacks to disrupt the coalition campaign also did not pan out.**

Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/world/20030424-74743827.htm>

**24. April 24, Associated Press — Suicide bomber strikes in Israel.** Israeli officials said Thursday's suicide bombing underscored that there can be no progress toward a peace deal as long as such attacks continue. **The blast went off at about 7:15 a.m. at a new commuter train station in Kfar Saba, north of Tel Aviv.** A guard was killed on the spot and a female soldier standing nearby was hit by flying nails. The bomber was also killed. Ten travelers were wounded, including one seriously, paramedics said. The explosion tore light fixtures and wires from above the entrance of the station. Blood, glass and scraps of flesh were scattered across the sidewalk and front steps. In a call to The Associated Press, a man identifying himself as a member of the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a militia linked to Fatah, claimed responsibility. **However, the official spokesman of the Al Aqsa militia, known by his nom de guerre, Abu Mujahed, said his group had nothing to do with the bombing. Abu Mujahed said the attack apparently was carried out by a splinter group of Al Aqsa. The militia consists of dozens of bands of gunmen who often act independently.**

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2003-04-23-mideast-arafat\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2003-04-23-mideast-arafat_x.htm)

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### **DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information**

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

**DHS/IAIP Warnings** – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

**DHS/IAIP Publications** – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

**DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive** – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

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Content and Suggestions: [nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov](mailto:nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov) or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at 202-324-1129

Distribution Information Send mail to [nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov](mailto:nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov) for more information.

### **Contact DHS/IAIP**

To report any incidents or to request information from DHS/IAIP, contact the DHS/IAIP Watch at [nipc.watch@fbi.gov](mailto:nipc.watch@fbi.gov) or call 202-323-3204.

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